

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /074 W
-----030487 011439Z /46

P R 011415Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5110
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IN, PK, US
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON US ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 7772

1. IN PARLIAMENTARYDEBATE (RAJYA SABHA) JULY 29 THE PRIME
MINISTER WAS REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS THAT THE US IS SUPPLYING
"LARGE QUANTITIES OF ADDITIONAL ARMS" TO THE NEW REGIME IN
PAKISTAN AND WAS ASKED WHETHER THE GOI RAISED THIS WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE.
PM DESAI REPLIED: "SIR, IF THE USA CHOOSES TO SUPPLY ARMS TO
PAKISTAN, I AM NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT. BUT I AM NOT
WORRIED ABOUT IT BECAUSE WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES".

2. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS FILLING IN DURING THE
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QUESTION HOUR FOR THE ABSENT FOREIGN MINISTER, HAS DEPARTED FROM
THE TRADITION PRACTICED BY HIS PREDECESSOR AND OTHER GOI LEADERS
OF PORTRAYING THE SUPPLY BY THE US OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
PAKISTAN AS THREATENING TO INDIAN SECURITY, AND OFTEN CALLING OUR
ATTENTION TO THIS ASSESSMENT. (IF ANYTHING, THE PRESENT INDIAN
GOVT WAS IN ITS INITIAL MONTHS IN OFFICE EVEN MORE SENSITIVE ON
THIS ISSUE THAN WAS MRS. GANDHI'S, WHICH HAD OVER THE PERIOD

SINCE THE FEBRUARY 1975 LIFTING OF THE AMBARGO COME TO APPRE-
CIATE OUR RESTRAINED APPROACH ON ARMS TO PAKISTAN.)
HOWEVER, WE CAUTION ADDRESSEES THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS
SHOULD BE CONSTRUED MORE AS A DEBATING PUT-DOWN RATHER THAN AS
AN INDICATION THAT HE WOULD VIEW WITH EQUANIMITY IMPORTANT US ARMS
SALES TO PAKISTAN. WHATEVER HIS PERSONAL VIEWS MAY BE (AT
THIS POINT WE CANNOT DESCRIBE THEM WITH AUTHORITY), DESAI IS
ENOUGH OF A POLITICIAN TO KNOW THAT HE CANNOT AVOID THIS ISSUE,
IF IT WERE SERIOUSLY RAISED, WITH IMPUNITY
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: ARMS, POLICIES, SALES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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